Capsule Summary SM-69 Chaptico Survey District Chaptico Public

Circa 1736 - 1940

The village of Chaptico is significant as one of the few eighteenth century village centers to survive in St. Mary's County. The village is especially remarkable since the county landscape has always been characterized by widely dispersed settlement. This crossroads community retains the eighteenth century landmark Christ Church as its centerpiece as well as a cluster of nineteenth and early twentieth century structures. While the architectural integrity of some structures has been affected by the addition of artificial siding, the scale and plan of the village has changed little since the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form MARYLAND INVENTORY C

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF

Survey	No.	SM-69
Magi N	o.	
DOE	VAS	no

1. Nam	e (indicate	e preferred name)		
historic				
and/or common	Chaptico H	istoric District		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Junction of	Rte 234 and Rte 238		not for publication
city, town	Chaptico	vicinity of	congressional district	5
state	Maryland	county	St. Mary"s	
3. Clas	sification			
Category  X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considers not applicate	yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
<b>4.</b> Own	er of Prop	Derty (give names a	and mailing addresses	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Multiple ( se	e Attached)		
street & number			telephone no	).:
city, town		state	and zip code	
5. Loca	ation of Le	egal Descripti		
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Clerk of Court		liber
street & number		St. Mary's County Co	ourthouse	folio
city, town		Leonardtown	state	Md.
6. Repr	esentatio	n in Existing	Historical Surve	eys
title				
date			federal state	countylocal
depository for su	rvey records			
city, town			state	

Condition excellent	deteriorated	Check one	Check one  ≺ original site	
excellent good fair	ruins unexposed	X altered	moved date of move	

Survey No.

SM-69

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 10

7. Description

The Chaptico Historic District encompasses a small village located on the west side of Maryland Route 234, approximately four miles north of Clements, and four miles south of Budd's Creek, in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The district is bounded on the east by Maryland Route 234, and on the west by Chaptico Run. The southern boundary extends to the rear property line of the Nelson Home (SM-420), while the northern boundary extends to the northwestern property line of the W. Edelen Gough House (SM-415). The district is intersected by Maryland Route 238, also known as the Chaptico Maddox Road, which runs south to north along the western boundary of the town and then curves to the east where it meets Maryland Route 234. This intersection comprises the village's small commercial sector, consisting of two stores and a post office. The district is also bisected by the Chaptico Hurry Road which runs south to north, crosses Route 238 and dead ends 500 yards beyond the W. Edelen Gough House (SM-415). This road was the original north/south route which preceded Route 234. Many of Chaptico's historic buildings are situated along the Chaptico Hurry Road.

Within the historic district boundaries stand twelve houses, two stores, a post office, a medical office, a church, and a church hall. Ten buildings and sites of historic and/or architectural interest have been recorded within the village, including Christ Episcopal Church (SM-70), the Zach Fowler House (SM-147), Locust Grove (SM-148), the House (SM-149), the Aloysius C. Welch House (SM-413), the W. Edelen Gough House (SM-415), the Martin Welch House (SM-416), the Henry F. Burroughs House (SM-417), the George R. Garner Storehouse (SM-418), and the George T. Nelson House (SM-419). Most of these structures date to the nineteenth century, and are attractively situated on tree-shaded lots. All appear to be in good repair.

Recent changes which have affected the historic character of the village include the demolition of the Chaptico Store (SM-150) in the 1980s, the use of artificial siding on historic structures, and the construction of new buildings unsympathetic in design to the historic landscape. The village of Chaptico is not densely built and has actually lost a number of structures over the years, including two stores, a school, and a social hall. Still, Chaptico remains one of the few distinctively historic village centers in St. Mary's County.

The original focal point of Chaptico was the Flemish bond brick Christ Episcopal Church (SM-70). Built in 1736, this church is one of the earliest surviving examples of Colonial ecclesiastical architecture in Southern Maryland. Changes to the church include the alteration of its interior following the War of 1812, and the addition of a

8. Sig	nificance		Survey No. Sm-6	9
Period prehistor 1400–149 1500–159 1600–169 X 1700–179 X 1800–189 1900–	99 archeology-historic 99 agriculture		landscape architecture   law   literature   military   music   politics/government	science sculpture _X social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dat	es	Builder/Architect		
	plicable Criteria:A and/or plicable Exception:A		EFG	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Level of Significance: national state X local

The village of Chaptico is significant as one of the few eighteenth century village centers to survive in St. Mary's County. The village is especially remarkable since the county landscape has always been characterized by widely dispersed settlement. This crossroads community retains the eighteenth century landmark Christ Church as its centerpiece as well as a cluster of nineteenth and early twentieth century structures. While the architectural integrity of some structures has been affected by the addition of artificial siding, the scale and the plan of the village has changed little since the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Chaptico was established as a port by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland in 1683. Originally accessible by water, Chaptico Run gradually silted in to the point that it was already unavigable by the late 18th century. By that time, the wharf and the tobacco warehouse were located a mile and a half south of Chaptico at a site known as Darby's Landing.

Regardless of its distance from water access, Chaptico remained an important commercial center. A public house here, supposedly visited by George Washington in 1767 (Norris, 18), remained active into the nineteenth century. Chaptico was known as "the most public trading place in the county" (Marks, 30) in 1791, and in 1792, one of the first post offices in the county was established in the village. A polling place was established here in 1800 and by 1819 its tobacco warehouse was the only inspection point extant in the county. A plat of 1821 shows that Chaptico consisted of a blacksmith shop, an unidentified "shop," Christ Church, a public house, and five structures which may have served either residential or commercial uses or both.

The configuration of lots and the location of roads has changed little since the 1821 survey of Chaptico. At that time the Chaptico Hurry Road was known as the "road leading from Chaptico to Leonardtown." The southern section of Maryland Route 238 was considered "the road leading to Darbey's Landing," while the northeastern section led to St. Joseph's Chapel. Like today, the village was not

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-69

See Attached

10. Geographic	cal Data		
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state	code	county	code
			Code
11. Form Prepa	red By		code
11. Form Prepa			code
	, Historic S	ites Surveyor	February 1994
name/title Elizabeth Hughes	, Historic S	ites Surveyor date	

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISIOR.CAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21052 2007
-514-7400

SM-69, Chaptico Historic District St. Mary's County 4.1 Owner of Property

1. Christ	Episcopal	Church	(SM-70)
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2.	Zach Fowler House (SM-147)
	Philip R. and Virginia A. Quade
	S.R. Box 1
	Chaptico, MD 20621
	(301) 884-5655

MRB 422/84

3. Locust Grove (SM-148)
G. Bradford and Donna Reeves
Box 175
Chaptico, MD 20621
(301) 884-3974

MRB 42/47

James H. Drury House (SM-149)
 Albert L. and JoAnn S. Barthelme
 P.O.Box 21
 Chaptico, MD 20621

DBK 261/87

5. Aloysius C. Welch House (SM-413) Keith G. and Roberta M. Loker P.O.Box 26 Chaptico, MD 20621

MRB 74/103

6. W. Edelen Gough House (SM-415) Dennis K. and Victoria A. Ramey Chaptico, MD 20621 (301) 884-4946 EWA 631/249

7. Martin Welch House (SM-416) Eugene J. and Shelby B. Guazzo Box 2 Chaptico, MD 20621 (301) 769-2272

MRB 167/476

8. Henry F. Burroughs House (SM-417)
Mildred E. Harrison et al
Zach Fowler Road
Chaptico, MD 20621
(301) 884-3663

MRB 31/33

SM-69, Chaptico St. Mary's County 4.2 Owner of Property

9. George R. Garner Storehouse (SM-418) MRB 169/161 Audrey Ellis Orr Chaptico-Hurry Road Chaptico, MD 20621 (301) 884-4989

10. George T. Nelson House (SM-419)
Eugene J. and Shelby B. Guazzo
Box 2
Chaptico, MD 20621
(301) 769-2272

DBK 204/110

SM-69, Chaptico Historic District St. Mary's County 7.1 Description

tower to its western elevation in 1913. Christ Church is surrounded by a cemetery which is enclosed by a wrought iron fence. Christ Church continues to be the village's most significant architectural landmark and is in the process of being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

A potential historic archaeological site located in the village is the site of the eighteenth century tavern located on a triangular parcel behind the post office and referred to in the St. Mary's County Land Records as the "Tavern Lot," (CBG 14/477). This tavern, occupied by Joseph Edwards and owned by Philip Key in the late eighteenth century, was described in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax as "55 fe by 18, with a shed 8 fe by 30, one-story, 8 windows 2 1/2 fe by 4 1/2, five ditto 2 fe by 3 1/4, two ditto 1 1/2 fe by 2. Kitchen 16 fe by 20. Meathouse and dairy 20 fe by 24. Stable 20 fe by 24." According to George Morgan Knight, Jr., in Intimate Glimpses of Old St. Mary's, this tavern was built prior to the Revolutionary War and was visited by George Washington. The structure burned in 1862. No above ground remains of the tavern are visible.

The most outstanding residence extant in Chaptico is Locust Grove, also known as Christ Church Glebe (SM-148). The main block of the house is a two-story, three-bay frame structure finished with a pair of exterior chimneys at the north end joined by a two-story pent. A modern two-story, frame wing is attached to the southern end of this main block. Unlike the other houses in the village, Locust Grove is set apart and situated on a rise in the landscape. This house is said to have been built by Henry Green Garner in the 1840s.

Chaptico's only surviving log structure is the Martin Welch House (SM-419). Built sometime between 1835 and 1850, this three-bay, one-and-a-half story structure is constructed of hewn logs which have been notched into place. According to local tradition, this house was built for a Scottish immigrant by the name of Martin Welch. In the early twentieth century, the Welch house served Chaptico as a school.

Most of the residential structures which comprise the village consist of two-story frame buildings with slight setbacks from the road. These houses range in age from the 1840s to the 1930s. The most substantial and well-preserved of these structures is the Aloysius C. Welch House (SM-413). Built sometime between 1860 and 1870, the Welch House consists of a two-and-a-half story, three-bay northern gable end wing with a side hall-parlor plan. A slightly shorter, two-story, three-bay wing extends to the south. The Welch House has served both as a hotel and as a funeral parlor as well as a residence. The George R. Garner Storehouse (SM-418), the earliest section of which may have been built in the 1840s, is a two-story, three-bay building with a large north room which extends the length of the house. This room served as a grocery store during much of the twentieth century. The James H. Drury House (SM-149), a

SM-69, Chaptico Historic District St. Mary's County 7.2 Description

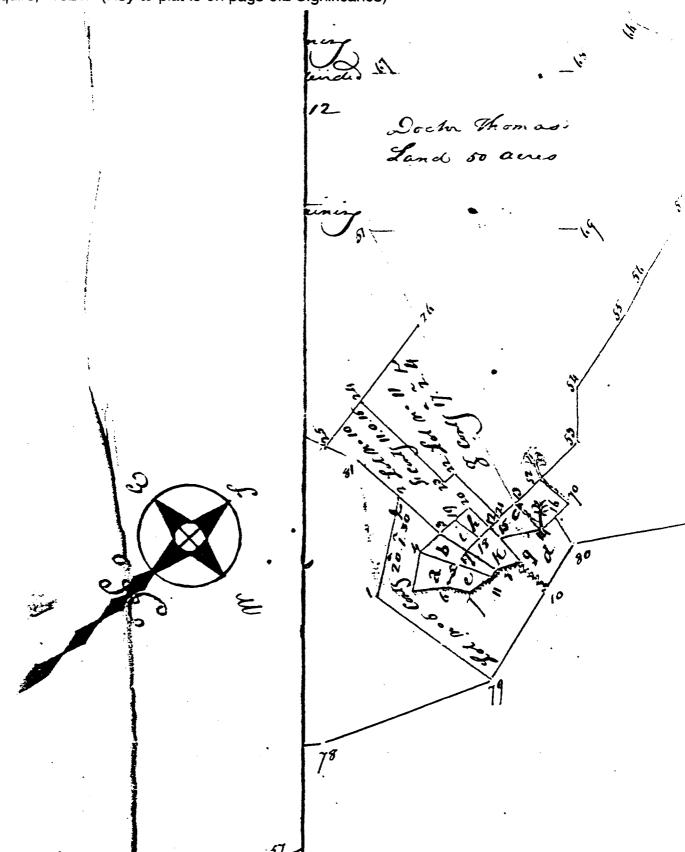
two-story, three-bay, center hall house, was standing in Chaptico by 1858. Much changed now, with the removal of its front porch and sheathing with brick veneer, the Drury House served as a general store from the 1860s until the early twentieth century.

The Zach Fowler House (SM-147) and the Nelson Home (SM-420) are examples of modest late nineteenth century homes in Chaptico. Both of these structures are two-story frame buildings with a center hall plan.

The W. Edelen Gough House (SM-415) and the Henry F. Burroughs House (SM-434), both built in the 1930s, represent the most recently constructed houses to be documented. These blocky, hipped roof, frame structures display elements of the Prairie and Colonial Revival styles in architecture popular at this time. These houses demonstrate that Chaptico continued to be a significant commercial and residential center in the early twentieth century.

SM-69, Chaptico St. Mary's County 8.1 Significance

Plat JH2/154, "Survey of partition of a part of the real estate of the late Philip Key Esquire," 1821. (Key to plat is on page 8.2 Significance)



SM-69, Chaptico St. Mary's County 8.2 Significance

Key to plat JH2/154, "Survey of partition of a part of the real estate of the late Philip Key Esquire," 1821.

Lot a: "on which stands the public house and the houses appertaining thereto."

Lot b: "containing 1 acre, 2 roods, 18 perches of land, on which stands the houses now occupied by Messrs. James and Joseph Shamwell." Point 3 is located "on the north edge of a road leading from Chaptico to St. Joseph's Chapel."

Lot c: "containing 1 acre, 1 rood, and 12 perches of land on which stands the house at present occupied by James Joy." The lot to the south of lot c is known as "the Church Lot." This lot is not assigned an identifying letter. Point 14 stands on the west side of the road leading from Chaptico to Darbey's landing.

Lot d: "containing 3 acres, 2 roods, and 20 perches of land, on which stands the Blacksmiths shop."

Lot e: "containing 3 roods and 27 perches of land on which stand the houses at present occupied by Messrs. Egerton and Pike."

Lot f: "containing 11 acres and 15 perches of land, on which stands the main body of the Dwelling house at Locust Grove and the shop." Note that point 23 is the location of "a post near the N.E. corner of the house (at Locust Grove) called the Shop" and that this boundary line actually passes through "at the joining between the main body and wing of the dwelling house at said place" to point 22. Point 12 is located on the east edge of the road leading from Chaptico to Leonard Town.

Lot g: "containing 17 acres, 2 roods, and 4 perches of land, on which stands all the houses at Locust Grove except the main body of the dwelling house and the shop."

Lot h: "containing 3 roods, and 5 perches of land, on which stands the houses lately occupied by James Scott."

Lot i: "containing 3 roods and 24 perches of land, having no improvements thereon."

Lot k: "containing 1 acre, 3 roods, and 8 perches of land, having no improvements thereon." Same acreage it has today.

Notes: Chaptico Run begins at point 10 and runs in a northerly direction to the northwest corner of Lot a.

SM-69, Chaptico St. Mary's County 8.3 Significance

densely built. Only eight lots were improved with houses in 1821.

Chaptico's commercial activity remained strong into the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. A hotel stood here in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The Maryland Directory and State Gazetter for 1887 lists six general merchandise stores in the village: Albert S. Beale, A. Burroughs, Mrs. E.C. Coode, Fowler Brothers, J.J. Gough, and John C. Herbert. In addition, Z.C.Hayden ran a saloon and Mrs. Eva M. Love operated a millinery shop in town.

Historic sites located in the Chaptico area, though not within its district boundaries, include Deep Falls (SM-71), Savona (SM-72), Gravelly Hills (SM-73), Indian Town (SM-75), and Red House Farm (SM-244). The connection between these eighteenth and early nineteenth century estates is greater than may first appear, since all their owners conducted business in Chaptico in one form or another. More recent structures in the area include the Gardiner-Yowiaski Mill (SM-420) and Our Lady of the Wayside Church (SM-414), both of which served the needs of area residents.

Today, Chaptico is primarily a residential village, although two stores located at the junction of Route 234 and Route 238 continue to conduct a brisk business here. Little new building has occurred in the town since the 1930s. Much buildable open space remains in the center of the town and south of Christ Church, however. As development pressure continues to impact the northern end of St. Mary's County, this area may be the site of new building. Currently, no protections are in place to control what is built and how this growth will affect the historic village.

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- SM-69, Chaptico St. Mary's County 9.1 Major Bibliographical References
- Dunbar, Joseph. "Plat of the Division and Parition of the lands of Philip Key, deceased." St. Mary's County Land Commissioners Record, Liber JH 2, folio 151-166. 1821.
- Hammett, Regina Combs. <u>History of St. Mary's County, Maryland 1634-1990</u>. Ridge, MD: n.p., 1991.
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- Mattingly, Mary Loretta. Personal Interview. January 1994.
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- Pogue, Robert E. T. Yesterday in Old St. Mary's County. Bushwood: n.p., 1972.

S M -69 CHAPTICO

18th century

(includes STMA-70, 71, 147, 148, 149, 150)

A historical marker erected here by the Maryland Historical Society

"Established in 1683 as one of four ports of entry in St. Mary's County... On July 30, 1814, British forces looted the town, causing much damage."

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

## NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

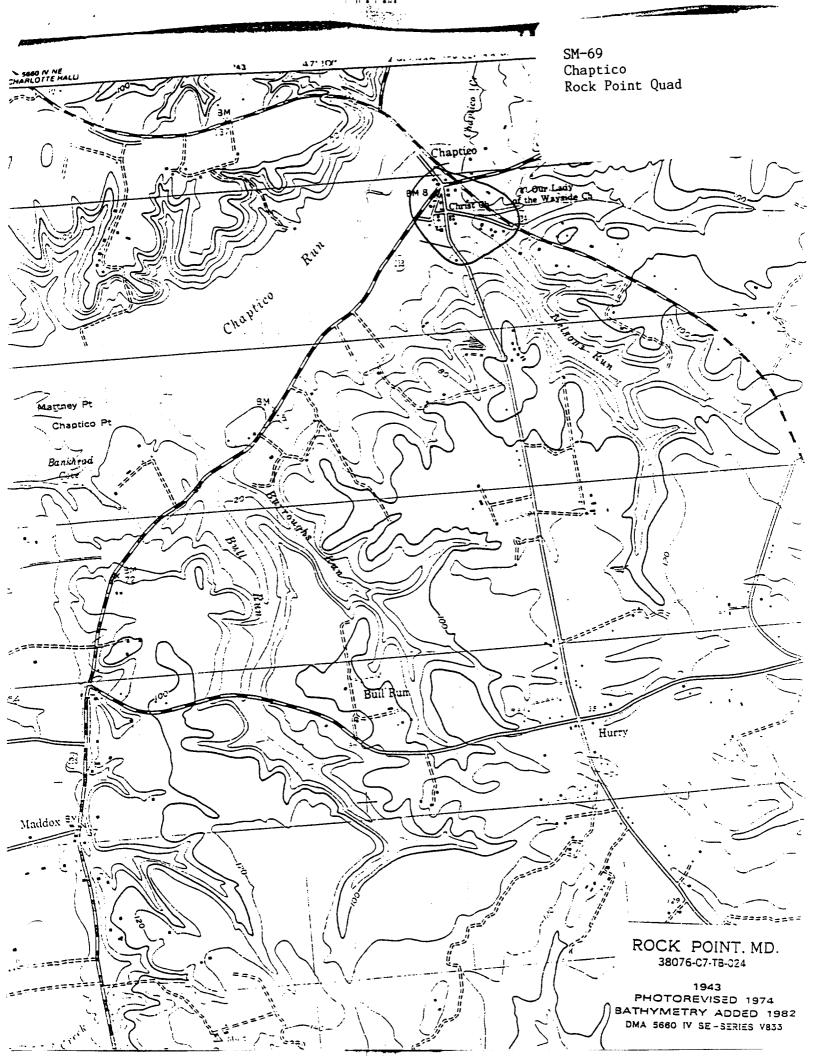
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2.	LOCATION					
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	Chaptico					
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3.	CLASSIFICATION	Rich New Edition				
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	☑ District ☐ Building	Public	Public Acquisition	on:	✓ Occupied	Yes:
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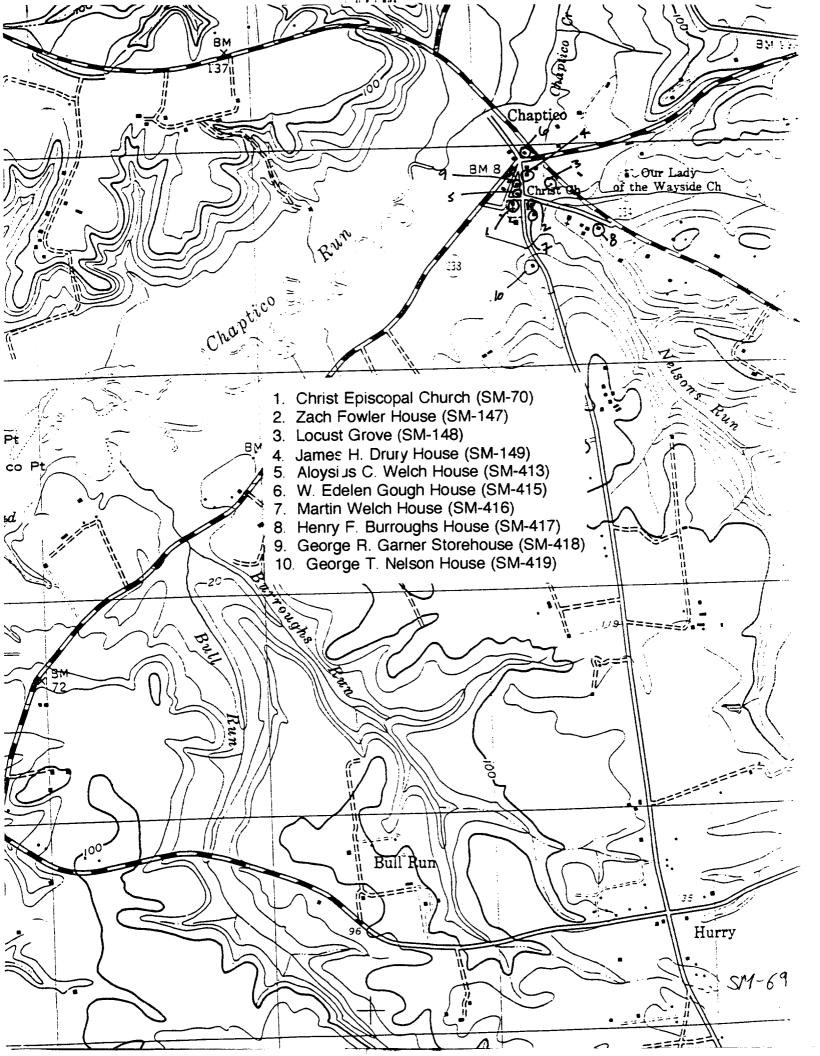
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